

REMARKS

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action mailed July 27, 2004. Claims 3, 12, 19, 25, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 48-56 have been cancelled. Claim 1, 7, 19, 26, 27, 30, 35-36, 38, and 47 have been amended. New claims 57-198 have been added. Thus, claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 13-19, 20-24, 26-31, 33, 35-36, 38, 45-47, and 57-198 remain pending in the case. Further consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Specification Objections:

The specification was objected to due to missing serial numbers for a cited patent application. Applicants have made two minor amendments to the specification to overcome this objection.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner objected to claims 19, 25-27, and 47 due to typographical errors. Applicants have amended claim 47 to correct the typographical errors, and have cancelled claims 19 and 25 as explained below.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner stated that claims 25-27 and 47 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for consideration of these claims. Applicants believe that the claims are allowable as currently written. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended various of the claims to accept the allowable subject matter as indicated in the Office Action. Applicants have also presented additional claims to further capture the allowable subject matter.

More specifically, claims 1, 30, and 38 have been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 25 and claim 25 has been cancelled. Claims 26 and 27, previously depending from claim 25, have been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Method claims 57-61 have been added to more clearly and fully claim the allowed subject matter of claim 47. New method claim 62 has been added to include limitations of now cancelled claim 53.

Medium claims 63-86 have been added corresponding to method claims 9, 10, 13-18, 20-24, 26-29, 45-47, and 57-61, respectively.

Method claims 87-114, medium claims 115-141, and system claim 142, have been added to include the allowable subject matter corresponding to claim 47. Specifically, independent claims 87, 115, and 142, include the limitations of previous claims 1 and 47.

Method claims 143-170, medium claims 171-197, and system claim 198 have been added based on the allowable subject matter corresponding to claim 47. More specifically, independent claims 143, 171, and 198, are based on the limitations of previous claims 1 and 47.

Section 103 Rejections:

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-18, 20-24, 28-33, 35-36, 38-40, 42-43, 45-46, and 48-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan (USP 6453464) in view of McKaskle, et al (USP 5481741). As noted above, Applicants have accepted the allowable subject matter and have amended the claims to include the allowable subject matter. Further, Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 39, 40, 42, 43, and 48-56. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims as amended, including new claims 57-214, are patentably distinguished and non-obvious over the cited art, and respectfully request removal of the 103 rejection.

While Applicants have accepted the allowable subject matter, please note that Applicants intend to file a continuation of the instant application to further claim subject matter that Applicants believe patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-48000/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood

Reg. No. 35,198

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC

P.O. Box 398

Austin, TX 78767-0398

Phone: (512) 853-8800

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